

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 FEA-02 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02

CIEP-03 COME-00 EB-11 FPC-01 INT-08 OMB-01 SAM-01

SCI-06 STR-08 TRSE-00 FRB-03 ACDA-19 DLOS-07 COA-02

DRC-01 /235 W

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P R 170953Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8746

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

UNCLAS SAIGON 12085

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, VS, ENRG, CB

SUBJECT: GVN/GKR OIL DISPUTE

REF: SAIGON 11972

GVN FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS JUST ISSUED THE FOLLOWING
"STATEMENT BY THE SPOKESMAN OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF THE RVN CONCERNING THE OIL DRILLING RIG GLOMAR 4":

QUOTE: IN THE PAST TWO WEEKS, THERE HAS BEEN INACCURATE
INFORMATION REGARDING A DISPUTE RELATED TO OIL EXPLORATION
OFF THE SHORES OF THE CHAU ISLAND. END QUOTE. (NOTE: VIETNAMESE
NAME FOR POULO WAI.)

QUOTE: THE SPOKESMAN OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE
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REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM HAS MADE NO STATEMENT OR COMMENT IN ORDER

NOT TO HAMPER THE DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS AIMED AT SOLVING THIS PROBLEM.

THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM NOW DEEMS IT TIMELY TO CLARIFY THE MATTER AS FOLLOWS:

1. - A MULTINATIONAL COMPANY HAD PROCEEDED TO OIL EXPLORATION IN AN AREA BELONGING TO THE CONTINENTAL SHELF OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM.

FAITHFUL TO ITS MISSION OF DEFENDING THE SOVEREIGNTY, THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND THE NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE NATION, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM HAD ENJOINED THAT COMPANY TO END ITS ILLEGAL PROSPECTIONS AND REMOVE THE RIG FROM THE SAID AREA.

SINCE THE SAID COMPANY HAS TIES WITH THE KHMER REPUBLIC, THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM HAD SENT A NOTE TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KHMER REPUBLIC TO INFORM THE LATTER OF THE MATTER AND TO REQUEST THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KHMER REPUBLIC TO ASSOCIATE ITSELF TO THE INJUNCTION ADDRESSED TO THE SAID COMPANY TO COMPLY WITH THE LEGITIMATE DEMAND OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM.

THUS, THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM DELIVERING AN "ULTIMATUM" TO FRIENDLY CAMBODIA AS HAD BEEN REPORTED.

THE OIL COMPANY HAS STOPPED ITS ILLEGAL PROSPECTION AND MOVED THE RIG GLOMAR 4 OUT OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF AREA OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM. THUS THIS MATTER CAN BE CONSIDERED AS SETTLED.

2. - THE DELIMITATION OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF OF VIETNAM AND OF CAMBODIA IS ANOTHER MATTER.

REGARDING THIS PROBLEM, AS WELL AS OTHER INTERNATIONAL DISPUTES, THE CONSTANT POSITION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM IS TO REACH A PEACEFUL SOLUTION THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS.

THIS POSITION HAD BEEN STATED IN THE PROCLAMATION DATED FEB. 14, 1974 OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CONCERNING NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE ISLANDS OFF THE SHORES OF THE REPUBLIC

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OF VIETNAM.

IT WAS REAFFIRMED IN THE GENERAL STATEMENT MADE BY THE CHIEF OF THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE LAW OF THE SEA HELD IN CARACAS ON JUNE 28, 1974 AND RECALLED ONCE MORE IN THE STATEMENT OF THE SPOKESMAN OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM ON SEPT. 4, 1974.

IN APPLICATION OF THE ABOVE POSITION, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM IS READY TO HOLD NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KHMER REPUBLIC ON THE LIMITS OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF AS WELL AS ON THE PROBLEM OF SOVEREIGNTY OVER DISPUTED ISLANDS.

THUS, IT CANNOT BE SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM ONLY AGREED TO NEGOTIATE ABOUT THESE PROBLEMS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KHMER REPUBLIC IN THE PAST FEW DAYS.

3. - THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM IS DETERMINED TO DEFEND THE SOVEREIGNTY, INDEPENDENCE AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF THE COUNTRY.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM HIGHLY VALUES THE RELATIONS OF FRIENDSHIP AND OF COOPERATION WITH OTHER COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY THE NEIGHBORING ONES, ON THE BASIS OF THE RESPECT OF EACH OTHER'S SOVEREIGNTY, INDEPENDENCE AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY.

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM NEITHER ADVOCATES NOR ADMITS THE USE OF FORCE TO SOLVE INTERNATIONAL DISPUTES.

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM NEITHER ADVOCATES NOR ADMITS THE POLICY OF THE "FAIT ACCOMPLI".

THESE ARE THE PRINCIPLES APPLIED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM IN THIS MATTER AND GENERALLY IN ITS RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES. SAIGON, SEPTEMBER 16, 1974. END QUOTE.
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